



This Week in Renton

Send story ideas or comments to communications@rentonwa.gov.

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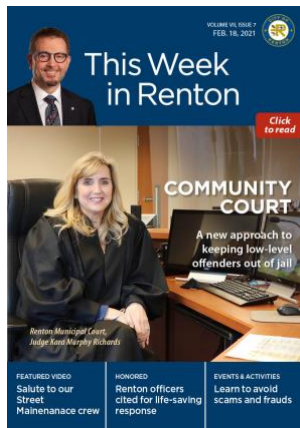
Friday, Feb. 19, 2021 | Vol. VI | Issue 7

WELCOME

Welcome to *This Week in Renton*, a combination of our two weekly publications, *This Week from the Mayor* and *Our Renton Weekly*.

This Week in Renton delivers up-to-date news, feature stories, vibrant videos and more. It is emailed and posted to our website on Thursdays.

If you're not already a subscriber, please [sign up and get up-to-date news and information](#) from City Hall.



VIDEO FEATURE

Our Public Works Street Maintenance crews started preparations for last weekend's snowstorm almost a week before it hit. Actually, their storm response efforts have been perfected over the past 30 years. This result was a highly-coordinated effort that kept streets open and traffic moving. We salute their efforts in our [Video of the Week](#).

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Sunset Neighborhood Park climbing structures honored

The Neptun XXL climbing structure and attached DNA climbing towers at Sunset Neighborhood Park have been named "[project of the month](#)" by Berliner Creative Centre. The 30-foot-tall Neptun is the only one of its type in the Pacific Northwest and is just one of four in the United States. Connected are two DNA climbing towers (at right), one 19 feet tall, the other 25 feet tall.

THE LEAD

Renton to launch community court

Renton Municipal Court (RMC) plans to bring a new approach to dealing with low-level offenders via Renton Municipal Community Court (RMCC).

Community courts have been used across the country to keep individuals who commit the lowest level crimes out of jail. The court uses a problem-solving approach based on rehabilitation and accountability to work towards a reduction in reoffending. Sentences combine punishment, such as requiring offenders to pay back the community through community service projects, with enrollment in pre-trial diversion programs, such as drug treatment or mental health counseling. Participants have on-site access to services and weekly or bi-weekly court hearings.

Having a community court option is a relief for judges like RMC's Kara Murphy Richards. It removes many of the barriers people currently face when seeking help.

"My focus is always on community safety and accountability," Judge Murphy Richards said. "However, I often feel disheartened the court can't do more. I see the effects of homelessness, addiction, poverty and mental illness every day. It feels like we're stuck in a revolving door. We need to help these people turn their lives around."

"A community court will give the judge and the lawyers the time to get to know the people we serve. This relationship will support and reward those who progress."

A [Renton Municipal Community Court Informational Forum via Zoom](#) will be held on Tuesday, March 2, from 7-8 p.m. Active participation is limited to the first 50 individuals to register. The forum will also stream on YouTube. Attendees can get questions and concerns answered, and court staff will explain how the community can get involved.

Judge Murphy Richards will be joined at the forum by Bonnie Woodrow, Renton Municipal Court Service Director; Iva Clark, Chief Prosecutor; and Shawn McCully, Managing Partner of Valley Defenders.

CONGRATULATIONS



Officers Brus, Nelson, and Moynihan receive their commendations from Commander Hardin. (Renton police photo)

Officers honored for life-saving response

Renton Police Officers Brus, Moynihan and Nelson were awarded Life Saving certificates by King County Medic One for their life-saving actions.

Last month, Officers Brus and Moynihan responded to a welfare check to find an unresponsive man. Brus immediately began chest compressions. Officer Nelson arrived and, realizing the situation's gravity, brought his Automated External Defibrillator (AED). Nelson and Moynihan attached the AED and administered one shock, while Brus continued chest compressions. When Medic One arrived, the man had a slight pulse because of the officers' efforts. The subject was transported to Valley Medical Center and recovered.

This quick thinking by the officers embodies the Renton Police Department's core values of Service and Professionalism. Besides the Life Saving Award from King County Medic One, each officer received a letter of commendation from the department.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION



City and RAAP celebrate Black excellence

Next Friday, February 26, the city in partnership with the Renton African American Pastors (RAAP) will honor Black History Month with "[Celebrating Black Excellence](#)" at 6 p.m. This special Zoom event will include speakers, a drama performance, and a panel discussion, plus an interview with Renton Deputy Police Chief Kevin Keyes. Zoom information will be coming soon and will be posted in next week's edition and on our social media channels. The program will also air on Renton's Channel 21.

IN THE COMMUNITY



Jerry Scheuerman

City loses two outstanding community members

Renton recently lost a pair of outstanding community volunteers, Dr. Bob Thompson and Jerry Scheuerman.

"Dr. Bob," as he was known, was recognized as Renton's Citizen of the Year 2010 in recognition of his leadership in providing quality healthcare to the community regardless of their ability to pay.

His efforts led to the Renton RotaCare clinic in 2003 and a specialty clinic for free orthopedic consultation and surgery at Valley Medical Center in 2009. To him, there was nothing better than witnessing "a patient who has fallen on hard times experience healing and a full return to health."



Dr. Bob Thompson

If you've been to the Renton Farmers Market and other community events, you have no doubt seen Jerry Scheuerman. He was one of the market's most dedicated volunteers, always ready to lend a hand, a smile and a laugh. Earlier this month, Jerry lost his courageous battle with Fibrolamellar, a rare form of liver cancer. He will be missed by his fellow volunteers, vendors, and visitors at the market.

We will always remember these two outstanding community members who had such a positive impact on our community.

HUMAN SERVICES



Severe weather shelter opened

Last weekend's cold weather activated the city's severe weather shelter. While health and safety protocols limited capacity to 15, we were able to accommodate our residents for four nights with no one being refused service.

The city's Community Services Human Services Division coordinated the opening. Thanks to the Renton Ecumenical Association of Churches (REACH) and All-Star Security for their efforts and compassion in operating the shelter. REACH served a "warmup breakfast" each day, and blankets were distributed.

COMMUNITY FORUM



Water Utility seeks customer input

The city's water utility division will host a virtual informational session on the 2019 Water System Plan Update and on the adoption of the Water Use Efficiency goals. The meeting will be held via Zoom on Feb. 23, from 5 to 7 p.m.

The city's website has [log-in information and supporting documents](#).

ART IN RENTON



Are you a budding artist?


Renton Municipal Arts Commission (RMAC) has grants available to individuals, organizations, and community groups for arts and culture projects and events. They're especially interested in innovative projects that inspire new creative forms of participation, especially for under-served groups.

All funding requests are reviewed before being presented to the commission on the first Tuesday of the month.

The commission's webpage has [information on 2021 guidelines and the application form](#). The commission will host a virtual instruction and Q&A session on March 18 at 7 p.m. Email arts@rentonwa.gov to reserve your seat.

AGE-FRIENDLY RENTON

Scams, Alerts & Fraud
Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2-3 p.m. on Zoom



Information and interactive Q & A with Renton Police PIO on the latest financial scams impacting residents via phone, regular mail, email/online, door to door solicitation, and banking.



Age-Friendly RENTON
A COMMUNITY FOR ALL AGES

Virtual Talks
Free virtual series with various topics, presenters and engaging conversation.
rentonwa.gov/register #9497

“Scams, Alerts & Fraud” subject of Age-Friendly Talk

Renton Police Department staff will discuss ways to stay safe from phone, mail or email scammers in our next Age-Friendly Renton Virtual Talk on Tuesday, Feb. 23, at 2 p.m. You can register one time for each of the twice-monthly sessions at rentonwa.gov/register.

In March, the series will feature “Healthy Meals” on March 9 and “Coffee with a Cop” on March 23.

COVID-19

City of Renton [COVID-19 resources page](#)

Vaccine update

Across the state, [over one million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine](#) have been administered. The number in King County has topped 350,000. (will check for updates).

Questions still remain on how to schedule your vaccination. These options are provided by [Public Health-Seattle & King County](#):

Option 1: Call your doctor's office or health care provider to check for available vaccination appointments.

Option 2: [Washington State's Phase Finder](#) tool can confirm eligibility and provide a [list of possible vaccination locations](#).

Option 3: If you need language interpretation or can't use the online Phase Finder tool, call the Washington state's COVID-19 Assistance Hotline. Dial 1-800-525-0127 or 1-888-856-5816, and press #. The lines are staffed Monday-Friday, from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday, Sunday, and observed state holidays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. For language interpretation, state your preferred language when you are connected.

Renton Schools added to voluntary coronavirus testing program

Gov. Inslee announced this week that 48 school districts, including Renton School District, have been added to the state's voluntary coronavirus testing program. The 48 join 13 pilot districts. The program involves testing staff with nasal swabs. Results are available in 15 minutes. The state lets the districts decide how to roll out the testing program and who is eligible.



Skyway Resource Center Pop-up!

Housing Assistance, PPE Care Kits, Diapers, Books, School Supplies and More

RIZP hosts resources event on Friday, Feb. 26

[Renton Innovation Zone Partnership](#) will host a free drive-through multi-service event at [Campbell Hill Elementary, 6418 S 124th St., Seattle](#), on Friday, Feb. 26, from 3-5 p.m. This event was scheduled for last Friday, but postponed due to weather.

Available resources include face masks, baby wipes, diapers, household supplies, food boxes and frozen family meals; housing, medical, health insurance; childcare and preschool consultation and developmental screening; WIC and First Steps; digital equity signups for free laptops and rental assistance referral; King County local service giveaways; ORCA LIFT Card; and free academic and career trade training.

Social distancing guidelines will be strictly enforced as attendees will be asked to remain in their vehicles.

CALENDAR

Daily, Senior Meals, free, drive-thru sack lunch pick up. Limited quantities. Mon.-Fri., 11:30 a.m., Renton Senior Activity Center, [211 Burnett Ave. N.](#)

Mondays, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Sustainable Renton free drive-through grocery store at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, [1700 Edmonds Ave. NE](#)

Wednesdays, 6 p.m., Renton Live! online connection promoting business, nonprofits and activities within the greater Renton community. Find the weekly link on the [Renton Live Facebook page](#).

Feb. 19 or 26, Fri. at 7 p.m. Virtual Nature & Neighbors for ages 18+. Share conversation and discover nature in a fun and approachable way. Register at [rentonwa.gov/register](#) for [Feb. 19](#) or [Feb. 26](#).

Feb. 20, 11 a.m., Guided Nature Walk for all ages at Cedar River Trail Park. [rentonwa.gov/register](#). \$12R/\$15NR.

Feb. 21 or 22, 11:30 a.m., Botanical Awakening introduction to plant life for age 18+ in the Black River Riparian Forest. Register at [rentonwa.gov/register](#) for [Sunday](#) or [Monday](#), \$22R / \$27NR.

Feb. 21 or 22, 10 a.m. Birds of a Feather: Social Birding Adventures for age 18+, an engaging, approachable bird-focused outing at the Black River Riparian Forest. Register for [Sunday](#) or [Monday](#), \$22R/\$27NR.

Renton Outdoors, outdoor or virtual activities with various locations and dates. From \$12 to \$27 for each event. [Feb. 20, Guided Nature Walk](#); [Feb. 21, Botanical Awakening](#), [Feb. 21, Birds of a Feather: Social Birding Adventures](#). Go to [rentonwa.gov/register](#) and search "Renton Outdoors."

Library resources and events, ongoing. Filter by event, program, and location. [kcls.org](#)

Skyhawks Youth Sports Camps, after-school programs, classes and leagues for ages 4 to 14. These programs have continued in 2021 with proven COVID-19 protocols and a modified curriculum in place. Registration is open for soccer and flag football camps and programs at [skyhawks.com](#). Renton locations include Kiwanis, Kennydale and Cedar River parks.